



## All main political parties support *Inspiring the Future*

The 2 July saw the national launch of volunteering in education initiative *Inspiring the Future*. This new **free** initiative will see employees from all sectors and professions volunteering to go into state secondary schools and colleges to talk about their jobs, careers, and the education routes they took.

**Everyone from CEOs to apprentices** and new recruits can volunteer for *Inspiring the Future*.

Registration is free for volunteers and state schools/colleges: <http://www.inspiringthefuture.org/>

## What the party leaders say.....

**Prime Minister, David Cameron**, says: "We need to get more of our business leaders and entrepreneurs into our schools to help inspire young people. I'm hugely enthusiastic about this programme. We need employers from a broad variety of sectors - from construction to catering, from retail to real estate - to get involved and help young people to realise their potential and give them the drive to succeed. Youth unemployment has held our country back for far too long, and this is a vitally important area we cannot afford to ignore. We need to help young people get the jobs on which their future, and ours, depends - not only to help get the country's economy back on track, but to change the lives of these youngsters who have so much potential. By placing professionals from all sectors in state schools and colleges, *Inspiring the Future* is doing just that."

**Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister** says: "Too many young people get the message that the best jobs are not for them. *Inspiring the Future* will give state school students the chance to see, hear and make a connection with someone in a career or job they might not have thought about. We're calling on doctors, nurses, lawyers, builders, civil servants, farmers, mechanics, engineers and other working people to give up just an hour of their time to talk to students in their local state school about how they got where they are today. The power of making connections that inspire young people is immeasurable and can be life-changing – the difference between going on to fulfil your potential, and languishing on the scrapheap."

**Ed Miliband, Labour Party Leader** says: "I believe in a society where every single person has a route to a career, whether they go to university or not. That is an ambitious aspiration, but Labour must always be ambitious for this country. The first step to making this ambition a reality is making sure that young people know about what careers are out there and what they need to do to find a route into them. *Inspiring the Future* allows schools to connect with employee volunteers, so that young people can be inspired to take a path they might not have known about before. This is important for all young people, but especially for the most disadvantaged, where family networks are often limited. I wish *Inspiring the Future* every success."

Leaders from the **worlds of business** and **education** also actively support *Inspiring the Future*.....

**Sir Roger Carr, President, Confederation of British Industry (CBI)** says: "*Inspiring the Future* has the strong support of the CBI because it is a primary means of giving young people real insight into the growing range of jobs which are available and how they can best prepare themselves for them. *Inspiring the Future* is free, easy and, for the first time, allows national volunteering schemes with education. The business case is strong, and I would urge all employers to sign up and encourage their staff to volunteer."

**Brian Lightman, President of Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)** says: “ASCL is delighted to be associated with the launch of Inspiring the Future. The world of work offers a bewildering range of opportunities for young people. It is immensely important that they have the chance to gain insights early on about different jobs and careers, especially when they cover areas outside their immediate experience. Employers often say that young people do not come to them with appropriate skills, and this project provides an ideal opportunity to talk directly to young people about what is required to succeed in the workplace. Having seen the benefits of this approach first hand as a headteacher, I am grateful to the many employers who have willingly volunteered their time and I am confident it will be hugely beneficial to the young people involved.”